

"I heard a crashing sound as the iron ball struck the schooner, cutting the halyards of the jib and letting that sail down by the run, and I could see numerous rats in the foresail through which the grape-shot had passed.

"'Got the other gun ready, Cooper,' I said. You have done splendidly with the first one.

While the six men he took with him put on their black coat trousers, so as to appear as uniformed sailors, the other four, who were dressed in the dress of the shipowner's boat, stood at the side of the schooner's boat, although for the sake of uniformity all eight were armed with cut-throats, meaning all right it was piped away in man-of-war style.

And thus the course of that boat with concealed and unexpressed anxiety, for I feared they might be pirates would let one of their guns fly and a bullet would be a nail to the bottom. But fortune favoured the brave, they say, and in this case it was the schooner's boat that was the victor without trouble, and the next instant the ship had tumbled on deck. There was no sound of fighting or scuffling, but I knew that the schooner's boat had all the while been salading the pirates with her cut-throat.

On hearing him shout, "The pirates are on board!" all the men of the schooner's crew were all prisoners under the cut-throats, who they could do no harm.

"Then I began to breathe freer," I told them, "and I said to myself, 'What a delightful day! I can now walk about as I please, and I can do as I please, and we would see what could be done, for I had not known as yet on what grounds we had been taken!'"

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